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Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503

1 AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2 REPORT DATE March 1994	3 REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Professional Paper
4 TITLE AND SUBTITLE A COMPARISON OF ROUGH SURFACE PARABOLIC EQUATION MODELS	5 FUNDING NUMBERS PR: MP92 PE: 0602435N	
6 AUTHOR(S) A. E. Barrios		
7 PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center (NCCOSC) RDT&E Division San Diego, CA 92152-5001	8 PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9 SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center (NCCOSC) RDT&E Division San Diego, CA 92152-5001	10 SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11 SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		

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APR 14 1994
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94-11318



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12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

Several parabolic equation models currently exist that model radiowave propagation over the ocean. Few of these models can accurately account for rough surface effects over an ocean environment. Several techniques to account for these effects, implemented within the split-step parabolic equation (PE) algorithm, are investigated.

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 3

Published in *URSI National Radio Science Meeting Program*, January 1994, page 193.

14. SUBJECT TERMS 94 4 13 051		15. NUMBER OF PAGES	
		16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAME AS REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED

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A COMPARISON OF ROUGH SURFACE PARABOLIC EQUATION MODELS

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Several parabolic equation models currently exist that model radiowave propagation over the ocean. Few of these models can accurately account for rough surface effects over an ocean environment. Several techniques to account for these effects, implemented within the split-step parabolic equation (PE) algorithm, are investigated.

Two of the rough surface algorithms to be discussed were originally developed to model acoustic wave fields incident on a rough boundary. The first model (M.E. Moore-Head, E.S. Holmes, JASA, 86(1), 247-251, 1989) is based on an angle-dependent surface loss function that is applied to the field in a layer near the surface. The second model (Tappert, private communication) does not depend on incident angle, but instead modifies the PE by including the impedance boundary condition as a singular index of refraction. The third method uses the mixed transform algorithm (J.R. Kuttler, G.D. Dockery, Radio Sci., Mar.-Apr., 381-393, 1991), in which the impedance boundary condition is directly applied to the field at each range step. This method relies on an equivalent rough surface reflection coefficient, which is angle-dependent. The final method simply modifies the starter field by multiplying the rough surface reflection coefficient and the reflected field.

All of the above models will be compared with a reference waveguide model that is shown to agree well with signals measured in the presence of slight to moderate sea states.

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